

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 3, please amend the paragraph starting on line 23 as follows:

-- In a further embodiment of the invention, the ~~arginine~~ alanine at AA position 111 of the native vascular endothelial growth factor is replaced by another amino acid in the VEGF.--

On page 3, please amend the paragraph starting on line 27 as follows:

--It is possible in particular for the arginine at AA position ~~111~~ 110 of the native vascular endothelial growth factor and the alanine at AA position 111 of the native vascular endothelial growth factor to be replaced by proline in the VEGF variant according to the invention.--

On page 4, please amend the paragraph starting on line 29 as follows:

-- The VEGF variants according to the invention may also have a signal sequence. The signal sequence may be connected N-terminally to the amino acid chain of the VEGF variant and have the sequence

Met Asn Phe Leu Leu Ser Trp ~~Ser~~ Val His Trp Ser Leu Ala Leu  
Leu Leu Tyr Leu His His Ala Lys Trp Ser Gln Ala. (SEQ ID No. 3) --